

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 NEA-10 DRC-01 /149 W
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P R 191747Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 223

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1642

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, US, EC

SUBJECT: US/EC RELATIONS: FRENCH AMBASSADOR'S CALL

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TELLS US HE SEES
PRESIDENT'S AND SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS AS HAVING
INVESTED CERTAIN WORDS WITH INVIDIOUS CONNOTATION,
E.G., QTE CONSULTATION UNQTE WHICH THE US HAS NOW
MADE A SYNONYM FOR QTE A US SAY IN A EUROPEAN
DECISION UNQTE, IS NOW A QTE BAD UNQTE WORD.
HE SEES THE EUROPEANS NOW AS WISELY DESISTING
FROM SEEKING TO CONDUCT A POLICY WITHIN THE
WEAK AND DIVIDED EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, E.G., THROUGH
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ITS COMMISSION, IN FAVOR OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL

EXCHANGES IN BILATERAL CHANNELS. FINALLY, THE
MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROSPECTS ARE DIMMER THAN EVER.
END SUMMARY.

2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HURE TOOK THE INITIATIVE OF
CALLING ON ME MARCH 18 TO REVIEW (TOUR D'HORIZON)
US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS. HURE SAID HE SAW THE
SECRETARY'S AND THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS AS HAVING
NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE EFFECTS. A MAJOR NEGATIVE
EFFECT WAS THE TRANSFORMATION OF NEUTRAL OR SYMPA-
THETIC WORDS INTO AMBIGUOUS OR UNPLEASANT WORDS.
QTE CONSULATION UNQTE FOR EXAMPLE, HAS NOW COME
TO MEAN AN AMERICAN SAY IN A EUROPEAN DECISION.
ANOTHER NEGATIVE EFFECT IS THAT EUROPE NO LONGER IS
SURE WHETHER THE US REALLY WANTS A UNITED EUROPE.

3. THESE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ARE OUTWEIGHED BY THE
FACT THAT BOTH SIDES NOW KNOW WHERE THEY STAND.
THE ISSUES ARE CLEARLY DEFINED.

4. IN ANY EVENT, THERE IS LITTLE EUROPE CAN DO ABOUT
THE SITUATION. EUROPE HAS NO CONFIDENCE IN ITSELF
AND WILL NOT BE CAPABLE OF SPEAKING WITH ONE VOICE.
CLEARLY, IT WILL NOT BE THE COMMISSION THAT WILL
HAVE THE MAIN ROLE IN INTRA-EUROPEAN RELATIONS
AND THE MAIN CHANNELS WILL BE INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
OUTSIDE THE EC FRAMEWORK, AND ALSO VIA RESPECTIVE
PRIVATE SECTORS.

5. THE EUROPEAN LACK OF SELF-CONFIDENCE REFLECTS
INSTABILITY OF AUTHORITY. EVEN IN FRANCE, THE
FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT IS BECLOUDED. HURE, REFERRING
TO POMPIDOU'S SERIOUS ILLNESS, SAID HIS FRIENDS WERE
BETTING MORE ON CHABAN-DELMAS THAN ON GISCARD
D'ESTAING AS EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR. DESPITE, OR
PERHAPS BETTER, BECAUSE OF, THE WORSENING ECONOMIC
SITUATION--GALLOPING INFLATION--THE GAULLIST MOVEMENT
WOULD PREVAIL IF ELECTIONS WERE HELD SOON. THIS
RESULT WOULD REFLECT THE INCLINATIONS OF THE
FRENCH ELECTORATE TO VOTE FOR THE QTE INS UNQTE
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WHEN IT IS FRIGHTENED. HURE SAID THAT JOBERT'S
STAND--DAVID AGAINST GOLIATH--HAS GAINED HIM A
GREAT DEAL OF POPULARITY.

6. EUROPE, SAID HURE, OBJECTS TO US QTE
GLOBALIZATION UNQTE, I.E., QTE LUMPING TOGETHER
UNQTE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. MOST EUROPEANS
THINK THAT THE US IS NOW BLACKMAILING EUROPE, WHILE

THE SOVIET UNION CONTINUES TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE ITS MILITARY CAPABILITIES IN EUROPE. I SAID THAT WE HAD AGAIN AND AGAIN REAFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT TO ATLANTIC DEFENSE AND THAT TO ACCUSE US OF BLACKMAILING EUROPE WAS A RIDICULOUS AND UNWORTHY CHARGE.

7. I TOLD HURE THAT THE US IS NOT PRESSING THE NINE TO MAKE NEW PROPOSALS, NOR ANXIOUS ABOUT RECEIVING THEM, BUT THAT WE WOULD ALWAYS BE READY TO CONSIDER SERIOUS ONES.

8. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, HURE (FORMERLY AMBASSADOR IN TEL AVIV) STRESSED ARAB DIVISIONS AS A MAJOR HANDICAP TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT. THE SYRIANS ARE DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES AND BITTERLY HOSTILE TO EGYPT. THE RUSSIANS, HE SAID, WILL MAKE NO GIFT TO SECRETARY KISSINGER IN THE CASE OF SYRIA.

9. COMMENT. MY LAST PREVIOUS MEETING WITH HURE WAS, TOO, AT HIS INITIATIVE. HOW MUCH HIS VIEWS WERE PERSONAL AND HOW MUCH INSPIRED FROM PARIS I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IF THE EUROPEANS WERE TO GIVE UP ALL HOPE IN THE EC PROCESS, AS HURE THINKS THEY MIGHT, THE FRENCH WOULD NEVERTHELESS KEEP UP THEIR OWN EFFORTS TO BEND THE COMMUNITY--OR, RATHER THE QTE EUROPE OF THE FATHERLANDS UNQTE--TO FRENCH LEADERSHIP AND FRENCH PURPOSES. STRAUZ-HUPE

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